

B. Amendments of the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification by submitting a substitute specification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3). The substitute specification introduces no new matter. (A "Marked-up Version of Substitute Specification Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3)(iii)" is appended hereto at Tab 2.) Amendments of the specification are discussed below.

1. Addition of Section Headings, Amendment of Brief Description of Drawings

Applicants have added the heading "Background of the Invention" at page 1, immediately before the first paragraph, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.77(b)(5).

Applicants have added the heading "Summary of the Invention" at page 3, immediately after the last full paragraph, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.77(b)(6).

The specification included a brief description of FIG. 1 at page 6, lines 27-30. Applicants have (1) amended the aforementioned brief description to better describe FIG. 1; (2) relocated the brief description to page 4, immediately before the first full paragraph beginning on the page; and (3) added the heading "Brief Description of the Drawings" immediately before the

aforementioned description, pursuant to 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.77(b)(7).

Applicants have added the heading "Detailed Description of the Invention" at page 4, immediately before the last full paragraph beginning on the page (and immediately after the newly added section entitled "Brief Description of the Drawings), pursuant to 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.77(b)(8).

2. Replacement of Reference to Claims

Applicants have replaced a reference to "the claims assigned to Claim 1" at page 6, line 23 with language from claims 1-11 to conform the specification to U.S. patent prosecution practice (see, e.g., paragraph 19, page 7, line 1 to paragraph 20, page 7, line 28 of the "Marked-up Version of Substitute Specification" appended hereto at Tab 2). MPEP § 608.01(l) ("In establishing a disclosure, applicant may rely not only on the description and drawings as filed but also on the original claims if their content justifies it.").

3. Clerical, Typographical, Idiomatic, and Grammatical Amendments

Applicants have added an attorney docket number at line 1.

Applicants have added paragraph numbering and line numbering to the specification to facilitate the identification of text therein.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct minor typographical, idiomatic, and grammatical errors at the following locations:

Previous Version of Specification	Marked-Up Version of the Specification (at Tab 2)
Page 1, lines 10-11.	Page 1, line 11 (para. 2).
Page 1, line 16.	Page 1, line 16 (para. 2).
Page 1, lines 18-30.	Page 1, line 29 (para. 2) - Page 2, line 10 (para. 2).
Page 2, lines 1-3.	Page 2, line 12-13 (para. 2).
Page 2, line 6.	Page 2, line 16 (para. 2).
Page 2, line 9.	Page 2, line 29 (para. 3).
Page 2, lines 12-13.	Page 2, lines 22-23 (para. 3).
Page 2, lines 22-23.	Page 2, lines 31-33 (para. 4).
Page 3, line 1.	Page 3, line 9 (para. 5).

Previous Version of Specification	Marked-Up Version of the Specification (at Tab 2)
Page 3, lines 5-8.	Page 3, lines 13-18 (para. 5).
Page 3, lines 12-13.	Page 3, line 22 (para. 6).
Page 3, lines 16.	Page 3, line 25 (para. 6).
Page 3, lines 17-18.	Page 3, line 27 (para. 6)
Page 3, line 21.	Page 3, line 32 (para. 7).
Page 3, lines 26-27.	Page 4, lines 12-14 (para. 9).
Page 3, line 31.	Page 4, line 18 (para. 9).
Page 4, lines 11-12.	Page 4, line 30-31 (para. 10).
Page 4, line 18.	Page 5, line 4 (para. 10).
Page 4, lines 23-25.	Page 5, lines 8-11 (para. 11).
Page 4, line 30.	Page 5, line 15 (para. 11).
Page 5, line 5.	Page 5, line 23 (para. 12).
Page 5, line 9.	Page 5, line 25 (para. 13).
Page 5, line 12.	Page 5, lines 28-29 (para. 13).
Page 5, line 15.	Page 5, line 31 (para. 14).
Page 5, lines 30-31.	Page 6, lines 13-14 (para. 16).
Page 6, line 3.	Page 6, line 18 (para. 17).

Previous Version of Specification	Marked-Up Version of the Specification (at Tab 2)
Page 6, lines 11-13.	Page 6, lines 27-28 (para. 18).
Page 6, lines 22-25.	Page 7, line 14 (para. 20) - Page 7, line 31 (para. 21).
Page 6, lines 27-28.	Page 7, lines 32-33 (para. 22).
Page 6, lines 32-33.	Page 8, lines 4-5 (para. 23).
Page 7, line 3.	Page 8, line 8 (para. 23).
Page 7, lines 8-9.	Page 8, lines 11-12 (para. 24).
Page 7, lines 12-13.	Page 8, lines 16-17 (para. 24).
Page 7, line 16.	Page 8, line 18 (para. 25).
Page 7, lines 21-25.	Page 8, lines 22-27 (para. 26).
Page 8, line 2.	Page 9, line 3 (para. 27).
Page 8, lines 5-12.	Page 9, lines 6-10 (para. 27).
Page 8, lines 15-17.	Page 9, lines 16-21 (para. 27).
Page 8, lines 22-23.	Page 9, line 25 (para. 28).
Page 8, line 32.	Page 10, line 1 (para. 28).
Page 9, lines 3-8.	Page 10, lines 6-11 (para. 28).

C. Amendments of the Claims

Applicants have canceled claims 1-11 without prejudice and have added new claims 12-24 having subject matter that was present in the canceled claims.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims 1-11, including any embodiments originally defined by improper multiple dependent claims, in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

Claims 1-11 were replaced by claims 12-24 to remove improper multiple dependencies, select claimed embodiments for prosecution at this time, and to conform the claims to U.S. patent prosecution practice. Support for new claims 12-24 is found throughout the previous version of the specification, particularly at pages 3-9. Support for new claims 12-24 is also found in originally filed claims 1-11, as summarized in the following table.

New Claim	Supporting claim(s)
12	1
13	1 and 2
14	1 and 3
15	1 and 4
16	1 and 4

New Claim	Supporting claim(s)
17	1 and 5
18	1 and 6
19	1 and 7
20	1 and 8
21	1, 8, and 9
22	1 and 10
23	1 and 10
24	11

The new claims include no new matter.

D. Amendment of the Abstract

Applicants have amended the Abstract by submitting a replacement Abstract under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b) (2). The replacement Abstract introduces no new matter. (A "Marked-up Version of Replacement Abstract Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b) (2) (iii)" is appended hereto at Tab 5.)

Applicants have added a paragraph number and a docket number to the Abstract.

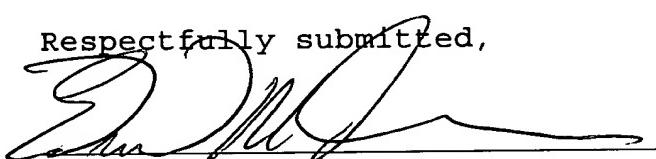
Applicants have deleted a clerical instruction, proposing the publication of a FIG. with the Abstract, addressed to a foreign patent office.

E. Conclusion

Applicants have amended the application to conform the specification and claims to U.S. patent prosecution practice and to select claimed embodiments for prosecution at this time. Also, applicants have made clerical amendments of the Abstract.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment. A favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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